

Paranormal researchers swap stories

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— At Arrowhead Resort, more than a dozen miles north on State Highway 10, the banks of the Illinois River were alive with activity Saturday night.

Some of the visitors were looking for another kind of activity altogether – specifically, that of the dead.

The Oklahoma Paranormal Research and Investigations team held its annual conference last weekend, one part retreat and one part education. After the group spent the day floating down the river, several speakers showed up for the conference, along with ghost hunters and some very curious area residents.

Katey Myers, 33, came to the event Friday night. She reported an emotional message had come through for her with Karen Fletcher, one of the OKPRI's speakers. Fletcher claims to possess and express tremendous psychic abilities since her earliest memories of childhood. By the time she was a teenager, she realized not everyone had this gift. Fletcher's talents are well-grounded in her traditional Native American and spiritual belief system, and her knowledge of the "other side." She also communicates with loved ones who have passed.

"It was incredible," Myers said. "I know it was my sister speaking through her. She couldn't have known those things."

Myers was so interested in the process of "ghost-hunting" that she paid for the second night in advance.

"I knew I was coming back tonight," she said. "I wanted to hear what everyone had to say."

Fletcher was the first to take stage in Thunderbird Lodge, before a group of more than 30 people. Her discussion centered on reincarnation and her personal views as to why the living often have experiences with the dead.

"I personally believe that heaven is here on earth," she said. "And when you die, you are in a kind of waiting, or purgatory, until your soul is born again."

Her explanation for why these souls stick around depends on what they feel they need to do.

"They are just like us," she said. "If they were pranksters in life, chances are they will be in death, too."

One audience member did not buy that idea, and began asking questions of Fletcher.

"So you're saying you don't believe in heaven?" she asked. "Then where is it you go when you die?"

After trying to figure out where souls go when they die, the audience welcomed its next speaker: James H. Pace, from the Sooner Paranormal of Oklahoma.

Pace is a trained paranormal investigator, parapsychologist, Kung Fu instructor, electronic voice phenomena technician, Reiki master, and the founder of Sooner Paranormal of Oklahoma, or SPOOK. His use of brain wave frequencies as a tool for paranormal investigations has produced some remarkable results. Pace has discovered some interesting ways to capture EVPs.

He talked about EVPs, and communicating with the spirits. EVPs occur when something is recorded audibly, and during playback other voices can be heard, for which there is no explanation.

"Some of them want to be heard," he said. "I have a CD of chants that I play, and it makes them want to communicate. Whether they hate it or not, I get my EVP."

The next speaker was OKPRI founder Christy Selfridge. She let visitors listen to EVPs the team has recently collected, to see if they could decipher what the spirit was trying to say. The crowd enjoyed that as they all listened carefully to the array of eerie voices, including that of child.

"This one is sad," Selfridge said about the EVP of the little girl. "During the investigation at a home, we gathered that the little girl had been abducted and then suffocated."

That particular EVP was heard to say, "Someone come find me. Help me."

Other EVPs imparted a variety of different messages; some were funny and some were angry.

During an otherwise normal recording of a good-bye, investigators picked up another EVP of a woman screaming, "Get out of my house."

That particular EVP was very clear.

After the crowd's interactive session with Selfridge, Arkansas author Larry Flaxman took the stage to discuss number prompts.

"Have you ever noticed a number sequence that seems to follow you?" he asked the audience.

Flaxman, co-author of the book "11:11 The Time Prompt Phenomenon: The Meaning Behind Mysterious Signs, Sequences and Synchronicities," said the book reveals new data and insight into mysterious numbers and odd sequences as they have appeared throughout human experience, and what it all means today.

Flaxman explained most people claim they see the number sequence 11:11 on the clock. Or they wake up at the same time, no matter what.

"The ancient civilizations used numbers in everything they do," Flaxman said. "All the buildings they have are set up in some kind. Is it all just a coincidence?"

Flaxman has been actively involved in paranormal research and field investigation for more than 10 years. He is president and senior researcher of the Arkansas Paranormal and Anomalous Studies Team, which he founded in February 2007.

Do you hear things that go bump in the night?

OKPRI just might be able to help.

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Photos



Larry Flaxman, speaker at the OKPRI Para-float event, discussed time prompts and the significance of numbers. Photo by Travina Coleman